

# Retiring Sept. 30

FT. MONMOUTH — Maj. Gen. Frank W. Moorman is retiring as chief of the Army Electronics Command effective Sept. 30.

The Department of the Army announced yesterday it had approved the retirement application of the man many thought was sent here to streamline operations in the wake of a bribery-conspiracy scandal involving two civilian employees.

The Department said no successor had been named to replace Gen. Moorman, who has been commander here since August 1963.

Gen. Moorman said he plans to enter the field of higher education after his retirement, but did not announce details. He will have served more than 30 years in the Army.

## Reports Mentioned

The general never confirmed the reports he was sent here to "straighten things out," as some congressmen intimated in floor speeches in the House of Representatives.

He told the Asbury Park Press in an interview earlier this year he had heard "barracks room" talk that such was the case, but added Gen. Frank Besson, head of the Army Material Command and his immediate superior, had never given such instructions.

Soon after he arrived, the General Accounting Office issued a report critical of fort personnel in purchases of defective radiometers between 1958 and 1962.

His tenure as commander was marked by decisive action, such as immediate cancellation of outstanding radiometer contracts.

He told fort employees bluntly in March 1964 any "wining and dining" by potential defense contractors must be reported on penalty of elimination from the federal service or criminal prosecution. He said he was reminding employees of Department of Defense regulations in light of a federal judge's condemnation of the "wining and dining" practice in sentencing one of the civilian employees in the bribery case.

When his own investigation of the radiometer purchases was completed, he filed charges of gross negligence against seven civilian employees, fired four of them, then rehired three.

The general roused the wrath of some employees by saying certain Civil Service practices protected incompetence and made the task of weeding out inefficient workers extremely difficult.

But he had a vision of creating a better atmosphere for creativity and craftsmanship in federal employees. He reorganized his command to place tighter reins on purchasing practices while loosening controls on research and development scientists.

He proposed construction of a new office building to house research laboratories, believing congressional opposition had effectively killed chances of com-



MAJ. GEN. F. W. MOORMAN

pleting the Hexagon. The general noted that many command activities were operating in temporary barracks built during World War II to last 10 years. He hoped for both a new office building and completion of the Hexagon to consolidate command operations here.

In June he received an honorary degree from Monmouth College, and told graduates:

"I could urge on you competence. Competence! Ah, my foes and friends: raw, bloody, bleeding competence. Typists who can type. Plumbers who can plumb . . . Down with those who in this country have substituted the warm handclasp and the friendly smile for the dull demanding necessity of knowing what the hell you are doing and an oily meaching piety for the harsh exigencies of the Ten Commandments."

The general was born in The Philippines in 1912 and was graduated from West Point in 1934. He served in infantry regiments for four years, then graduated from the Signal Corps School.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, he was assigned as signal officer of the 82nd Airborne Division and served with it though the Sicily, Italy, and Normandy campaigns. He became assistant chief of staff, G-4, when the XVIII Corps (Airborne) was organized in 1944, and remained with it for the rest of the European war.

## Service Recalled

He served briefly in the Far East, but returned to Italy to become a member of the European Theater staff in 1945.

In 1946 and 1947, he served with the United Nations Military Staff Committee in New

York. After service as an instructor in the Command and General Staff College, he became secretary of the general staff of the Far Eastern Command in 1951 and 1952.

He served with SHAPE headquarters in Paris, and in 1955 was named military attaché to France. In 1958, he became commander of the U.S. Army Electronic Proving Grounds at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz.

He had served three years as chief signal officer for SHAPE when he was posted here in 1963.

He wears the Legion of Merit with three clusters, the Bronze Star and the Commendation Ribbon.